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STONE-CUBA

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*Cuba for troops*

*2/27/79*

WASHSAID TODAY HE

BELIEVES THE SOVIET UNION IS TAKING A FIRST STEP TOWARD ESTABLISHING A MILITARY BASE IN CUBA AND ACCUSED SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE OF A "WHITEWASH" FOR DENYING IT.

STONE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT A "SOVIET COMMAND STRUCTURE" CAPABLE OF CONTROLLING A BRIGADE OF TROOPS, IS IN CUBA NOW AND HAS BEEN "FOR SOME TIME."

HE SAID HIS MAIN CONCERN IS WHETHER OR NOT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS THE WILL TO PROTEST SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THE ONE WHICH ENDED THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS IN OCTOBER 1962 AND TO INSIST THAT THEY BE STOPPED.

AND HE INTIMATED THAT HIS VOTE FOR THE SALT II TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION MAY RIDE ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO HIS ACCUSATIONS.

STONE SAID THE EVIDENCE FOR HIS ACCUSATION IS BASED ON HIGH-LEVEL CLASSIFIED BRIEFINGS AND THAT HE CANNOT REVEAL THE NUMBERS, LOCATIONS, OR ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET PERSONNEL IN CUBA.

STONE IS UP FOR RE-ELECTION IN 1980. MANY OF HIS CONSTITUENTS ARE CUBAN-AMERICANS WHO FLED THE COMMUNIST REGIME OF CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO.

A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT "THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT SOVIET MANPOWER IN CUBA IS BEING ORGANIZED INTO A COMBAT FORCE."

AT THE PENTAGON, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AGREED, SAYING THE SOVIETS HAVE ABOUT 2,000 MILITARY TECHNICIANS AND ADVISERS IN CUBA SUPPLEMENTED WITH SOME 6,000 TO 8,000 CIVILIANS.

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